

December 11, 2014

Chair
Assembly Health and Human Services Committee

Chair
Assembly Ways and Means Committee

Chair
Senate Health and Human Services Committee

Chair
Senate Finance Committee

The Grants Management Advisory Committee (GMAC), created in 2005 by Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 232.383, would like to go on record in support of the Proposed Spending Plan for the Fund for a Healthy Nevada (FHN) embedded in the SFY 2016-17 budget for the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

The FHN Proposed Spending Plan was developed in accordance with NRS 439.630, which requires the GMAC, the Commission on Aging (CoA) and the Commission on Services for Persons with Disabilities (CSPD) to conduct community needs assessments to identify funding priorities. The GMAC met this requirement and made priority recommendations to the DHHS Director after its June 2014 meeting. The Director considered recommendations from all three advisory bodies while building the Agency Request budget.

The GMAC's needs assessment cast a wide net across the state to capture input from both urban and rural areas.

- Eight public forums were held in March and April. Locations included Caliente, Carson City, Elko, Fallon, Las Vegas, Mesquite, Reno and Winnemucca. A ninth session was part of the GMAC's March 2014 meeting, which was video-conferenced among sites in Carson City, Elko and Las Vegas. A total of 147 people participated in these discussions.
- An online and paper survey was distributed in March and April, drawing a total of 2,398 responses (8% completed in Spanish).

Four major categories of need emerged. The ranking differed depending upon geography, age, household composition and whether the person offering input was a service provider or a consumer, but the categories themselves did not change. The GMAC adopted these four major categories, in no particular order, as the priorities recommended to the DHHS Director.

- Health / Mental Health
- Family Support
- Food Security
- Support for Persons with Disabilities and their Caregivers

The GMAC believes that the FHN Proposed Spending Plan is reflective of the needs expressed by consumers and providers across the state and of the recommendations put forth by the committee. Therefore, the GMAC would like to go on record in support of the spending plan.

Complete results of the GMAC's Statewide Community Needs Assessment are available online at <http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/Grants/GMU/>. (Click on the "Link to Reports and Grantee Documents" at the bottom of the page.) A hard copy may be requested by contacting the DHHS Grants Management Unit (GMU) at (775) 684-4000. You may also reach any and all GMAC members through the DHHS GMU at the aforementioned telephone number or by emailing the GMU Chief, Laurie Olson, at lolson@dhhs.nv.gov.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jeff Fontaine, GMAC Chair

On Behalf Of:

Dr. Ina Dorman, GMAC Vice Chair

Deborah Campbell

Al Conklin

Michele Howser

Marcia O'Malley

Dan Musgrove

Cindy Roragen

Pauline Salla

John Thurman

Jeff Zander